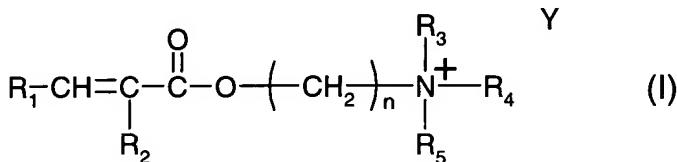


IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended): A copolymer derived from the emulsion polymerization of
 - (a) a at least one-cationic monomer of formula (I),



wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or methyl,

R_2 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl,

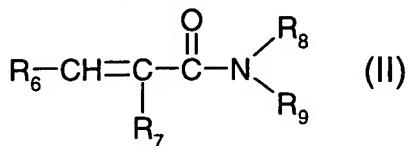
R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are independently from each other hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl,

n is a integer from 1 – 5, and

Y is a counterion,

and

- (b) a at least one monomer of formula (II)



wherein

R_6 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

R_7 , R_8 and R_9 signify independently from each other hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl,

with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 is

$\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl,

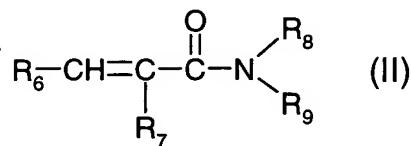
and

- (c) optionally at least one cross-linking agent, which contains at least two ethylenically unsaturated moieties.

2. (currently amended): A copolymer according to Claim 1 characterized in that it consists of 20 – 95 wt-% of a at least one monomer of formula (I) and of 5 – 50 wt-% of a at least one monomer of formula (II).

3. (currently amended): A copolymer according to Claim 1 characterized in that it consists of 40 – 90 wt-% of ~~at least one~~ monomer of formula (I) and of 10 – 40 wt-% of ~~at least one~~ monomer of formula (II).
4. (previously presented): A copolymer according to claim 1 characterized in that the copolymer comprises 50 – 500 ppm of at least one cross-linking agent based on the total amount of the copolymer.
5. (previously presented): A copolymer according to claim 1 characterized in that
- R_1 is hydrogen or methyl,
 - R_2 is hydrogen or methyl,
 - R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are independently from each other hydrogen or methyl,
 - n is an integer from 1 – 4, and
 - Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogensulfate or methosulfate.
6. (currently amended): A copolymer according to claim 1 characterized in that
- R_6 signifies hydrogen or methyl,
 - R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and
 - R_8 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and
 - R_9 signifies hydrogen or methyl,
- with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_6 , $[[R_7,]]R_8$ and R_9 is methyl.
7. (currently amended): A copolymer according to Claim 1 derived from the polymerization of
- (a) a cationic monomer of formula (I),
- $$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ R_1-\text{CH}=\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\left(-\text{CH}_2\right)_n-\overset{\underset{\text{R}_5}{\underset{|}{|}}{+\text{N}}-\text{R}_4 \\ | \\ \text{R}_2 \end{array} \quad Y \quad (I)$$
- wherein
- R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are independently from each other hydrogen or methyl,
 n is 1, 2 or 3, and
 Y is a counterion, and

- (b) a monomer of formula (II)



wherein

R_6 signifies hydrogen or methyl, R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R_8 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

R_9 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_6 , $[[R_7,]]R_8$ and R_9 is methyl, and

- (c) optionally at least one cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide,.

8. (currently amended): A copolymer according to Claim 7 derived from the polymerization of

20 – 95 wt-% of ~~at least one~~ cationic monomer of formula (I),

and

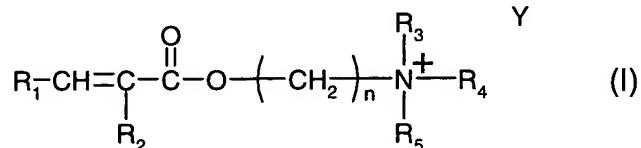
5 – 50 wt-% of ~~at least one~~ monomer of formula (II)

and

50 – 500 ppm (based on the total amount of monomers) of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide .

9. (previously presented): A copolymer according to Claim 1 derived from the polymerization of

- (a) 40 – 90 wt-% of a cationic monomer of formula (I),



wherein

R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen,

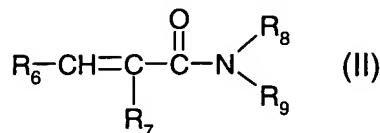
R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are methyl,

n is 1, 2 or 3, and

Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogensulfate or methosulfate,

and

- (b) 10 – 40 wt-% of a monomer of formula (II)



wherein

R₆ and R₇ signify hydrogen,

R₈ and R₉ signify methyl,

and

- (c) 100 – 300 ppm of tetra allyl ammonium chloride and/or N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide.

10. (previously presented): A method of preparing a water- and/or oil-based personal care composition which comprises incorporation of a copolymer according to claim 1 into said composition.

11. (currently amended): An oil/water- based personal care composition which comprises:
0.5 – 10 wt-% of at least one copolymer according to Claim 1,
2 – 25 wt-% of at least one oil-component,
0 – 25 wt-% of at least one adjuvant and/or additive, and
water up to 100 wt-%.

12. (previously presented): An oil-based personal care composition which comprises
0.5 – 10 wt-% of at least one copolymer according to Claim 1,
50 – 99 wt-% of at least one oil-component, and
0 – 25 wt-% of at least one adjuvant and/or additive.

13. (previously presented): A copolymer according to claim 5 characterized in that
R₁ is hydrogen,
R₂ is hydrogen,
R₃, R₄ and R₅ are methyl,
n is an integer from 1 – 4, and
Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogensulfate or methosulfate.

14. (currently amended): A copolymer according to claim 6 characterized in that

R_6 signifies hydrogen,
 R_7 signifies hydrogen, and
 R_8 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and
 R_9 signifies hydrogen or methyl,
with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_8 and R_9 is
methyl.

15. (currently amended): A copolymer according to claim 8 derived from the polymerization of 40 – 90 wt-% of ~~at least one~~ cationic monomer of formula (I), and 10 – 40 wt-% of ~~at least one~~ monomer of formula (II) and 100 – 300 ppm (based on the total amount of monomers) of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide.